

INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

DATE DISTR 15 JUN 50

NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS. 25X1A
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Thailand

SUBJECT Possible Communist Infiltration of the
Lower House of Parliament

FACE
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1. Only a few individuals of the 122 members of the Thai House of Representatives may now be regarded as suspect of, or susceptible to Communist collaboration. No Thai Member of Parliament (MP) has openly supported the Communist cause since Prasert Sapsunthorn^{1/}, who was defeated in the 1948 elections. Prasert declared in Parliament as a one-man Communist Party following the repeal of the Thai Anti-Communist Act in mid-1946.
2. The following is a list of MP's who might be suspect of pro-Communism on the basis of their past records:
 - a. Huat Thongrot^{2/}, MP from Mahasarakam. Chinda Chindanaseri^{3/}, Thai translator at the Soviet Legation, believes that Huat is collaborating with the Communists. Recently, Huat petitioned King Rama IX to visit the northeastern Thai provinces. The King turned down the petition with regrets.
 - b. Chuen Kawiwan, MP from Nong Khai. Phan Kasomat^{4/}, allegedly a key Communist Party member, has been known to boast that when he desires a favor in Parliament he calls on Chuen to assist him.
 - c. Nat Nungtharp, MP from Mahasarakam. Nat is a graduate of the University of Moral and Political Sciences (UMPS) and is a cousin of Chamlong Daoruang, former Assistant Minister of Commerce, who was killed after the February 1949 coup attempt. Nat is a close associate of Phan Kasomat and Tiang Sirikhan. In his speeches, Nat has revealed a leftist viewpoint; however, there is no concrete evidence that he is pro-Communist.
 - d. Tiang Sirikhan^{5/}, MP from Sakorn Nakorn. Tiang is a close friend of Prasert Sapsunthorn. Although it was Prasert who openly moved for the repeal of the Anti-Communist Act in 1946, it was Tiang who organized the support which would assure its repeal. After World War II, when Sanguan Tularak became Thai Ambassador to Chungking, Fridi assigned Sanguan's former position as liaison man between the

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Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth.: HR 70-2
Date: 080678

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Free Thai and the Chinese Communists to Tiang. Tiang is an intimate friend of Phan Kaeomai and has stated that he is also a personal friend of Ho Chi Minh. In December 1949, Tiang stated that he was not going to visit Nguyen Duc Quy, Ho Chi Minh Government representative in Bangkok, and other Viet Minh representatives openly in the future, because it might cast suspicion on him. Tiang has always kept in close touch with the Communist newspaper, Mahachon, and more recently has been in contact with the pro-Communist Lak Chai. At Lak Chai gatherings, Tiang has been quoted as making strong statements in condemnation of Western imperialism.

- e. Charabut Ruengsuwarn, MP from Khon Khaen. Charabut, a former Free Thai member, is a follower of Tiang. Charabut, who received a Master's Degree in Economics from the UMPS, is believed to be active in underground Communist activities.
- f. Charern Supsaeng, MP from Pattani. Charern, the older brother of Charon Supsaeng, former Minister of Agriculture under Pridi, is a staunch Pridi supporter. A Doctor of Medicine, Charern is respected in southern Thailand for his integrity and has a strong following among the Muslims. He is on intimate terms with Haji Sulong, the Muslim leader, Tiang Sirikhan, and Asani Cholachan^{8/}. An unidentified MP alleges that Charern is a member of the inner circle of the Communist Party. Charern has remarked that the danger to Thailand is not Communism but the high cost of living. It is believed that the chaotic conditions existing in southern Thailand might prompt Charern to support a new order in the hope that the situation will be alleviated.
- g. Sukit Nimmahem^{7/}, MP from Chiangmai and Minister of Industries. The prime basis for distrust of Sukit is his unsavory opportunistic record. He is a close associate of Thienthai Apaichatabut^{8/} and he revealed to Thienthai the content of the Thai Cabinet discussions with Malcolm MacDonald, Southeast Asia British Commissioner-General, on the subject of the Communist menace.
- h. Liang Chayakan^{9/}, MP from Ubon and Deputy Minister of Interior.
- i. Khun Sime Singsawat, MP from Lampang. Originally from Nong Khai, Khun was a former commissioner at Lampang. He is a member of the Tiang group and of the Saha Thai Party. At the time of the Food Drive Organization, Khun was the chief assistant of its head, the late Thong Pleo Cholaplum, who was the guiding force of the Communist weekly, Mahachon.
- j. Boonkoom Chansiriyawong, MP from Udon. Boonkoom, a former teacher is closely associated with the Tiang group. While a member of the mission to Burma he informed the Burmese that he agreed with the leftist viewpoint on various subjects. Boonkoom is a staunch Pridi supporter.
- k. Prapat Watanasen, MP from Bangkok and former Lord Mayor of Bangkok. In 1947, Prapat visited Moscow and upon his return he was lavish in his praise of Soviet accomplishments. Prapat has been a close associate of Arthakitti Kamchorn^{11/}.

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1. Kwang Thongtawi, MP from Kalasin. Kwang, a former teacher, was a member of the Democrat Party. According to Chinda Chindanaseri, Kwang is probably in close contact with Communist groups.
2. Suan Prompraki, MP from Udon. Suan, a former teacher, is a Tiang supporter. Tiang does not have much confidence in Suan, but maintains his loyalty by delegating minor assignments to him.
3. Wong Wirachartohli, MP from Chantaburi. Phan Kasornat has remarked that Wong is one of the MP's who is of assistance to him.
4. Pethai Chotinuchit^{12/}, MP from Thonburi. Pethai, who is also Mayor of Thonburi, edits the Politics Weekly, which is becoming increasingly pro-Communist. Pethai, who is the brother of Thep Chotinuchit, is a close friend of Prasit Kanchanawat^{13/}, co-promoter of the pro-Communist Siang Thai. Before the last session of Parliament adjourned Pethai had intended to ask the government for its stand on the recognition of Communist China.
5. Thep Chotinuchit^{14/}, MP from Sisaket and Deputy Minister of Commerce. Thep owes his present position to the behind the scenes support of Luan (fnu)^{15/}, the "non-political" organizer of northeast Thailand politicians. Luan apparently is liberally supplied with funds, allegedly by the Communist Party, which he distributes to northeast MP's.
6. Fong Sitthitham, MP from Ubon. Fong was prominent in a Free Lao group which sent some of its youths to China for training. Fong was Deputy Minister of Education in the Khuang Abhaiwong cabinet.
7. Lt. Col. Payome Chulanon^{16/}, MP from Petburi. Payome was involved in the October 1948 coup attempt, following which he was given asylum by a Communist group in Bangkok. Later, he found refuge with Adm. Saharn's marines at Pattahip. Payome who has much the same status as Adm. Luang Sangworn Yuthakit is still in hiding in an unidentified place. During the last session of Parliament he sent a letter stating that he was retaining his Parliamentary seat but that he would be on leave during the session.

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- 4/ Washington Comment. [redacted] reported that Phan Kasornat is a member of the same Communist group as Prasert Sapsunthorn. According to this report, Phan has not held public office since the 1947 Coup, at which time he was Secretary to the Minister of Education. However, Phan still maintains close relations with officials in the Ministries of Education and Interior and, this report further states, he is particularly friendly with the Lao Members of Parliament from northeast Thailand. See [redacted] for further information on Phan.

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- 6/ Washington Comment. [REDACTED] states that Asani Cholaschan is a brilliant young graduate of the UMPS, who is believed to be a Communist Party member. According to this report, Asani contributed a violent anti-American article to Mahachon entitled "Get Out, Mr. Jessup, Get Out!". He is also a contributor to Lak Chai.

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7/ [REDACTED]

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8/ [REDACTED]

- 9/ Washington Comment. [REDACTED] contain information on the recent political activities of Liang Chayakan.

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- 10/ Washington Comment. Possibly the Burmese independence celebrations in January 1948.

11/ [REDACTED]

12/ [REDACTED]

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13/ [REDACTED]

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14/ [REDACTED]

- 15/ Washington Comment. Luan is probably the same as Luen Buasuvan reported in [REDACTED]. According to this report, Luen, a businessman from north-east Thailand and the owner of rice mills and a distillery, had been asked by Lt. Gen. Phin Chunhavan, Commander-in-Chief of the Thai Army, to act as liaison man with the Chinese Communists. This report further stated that Luen, who was born in China, had worked with Area Livira in the Chinese underground anti-Japanese movement during World War II.

16/ See [REDACTED]

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